

CHAPTER 10 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: HUMAN SERVICES ELEMENT

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1000 DECLARATION OF MAJOR POLICIES

- 1000.1 The availability of health and social services is critical to the District community. A wide range of services that are indispensable must be delivered not only to the most desperate and destitute, but to anyone in need of human services. These services include the following:
- (a) Prevention and control of disease;
 - (b) Provision of medical and health care;
 - (c) Alcohol and drug abuse treatment and counseling;
 - (d) Care of the mentally ill, mentally retarded, the handicapped, children (ages 0-13), youth (ages 14-21), and the elderly;
 - (e) Provision of financial assistance and social services;
 - (f) Vocational rehabilitation services;
 - (g) Child care services; and
 - (h) Veterans' services.
- 1000.2 Providing efficient and affordable human services requires intense, sustained, and sharply focused actions by the public and private sectors working together.
- 1000.3 The involvement of community leaders and agencies, providers, and consumers in such an active manner so as to ensure that high quality human services are provided, is central to efficient and affordable human services. It is essential that programs and actions respond to identified community needs.

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- 1000.4 The District must pursue every available opportunity to improve efficiency and effectiveness and to target its resources most appropriately. Studies currently in progress must be carefully reviewed. Policies and implementation strategies designed to provide comparable services at lower costs must be devised.
- 1000.5 Health and social service programs should assist people toward self-sufficiency, and government services should be organized to accelerate this independence. The ultimate goal of the government should be to implement a public assistance program in the District that will help welfare recipients and their families become economically independent.

1001 HUMAN SERVICES GOAL

- 1001.1 It is the goal of the District to ensure a broad range of community-based human services for those in need.

1002 HUMAN SERVICES DELIVERY SYSTEM

- 1002.1 It is the human services delivery system's objective to maintain and improve the human services delivery system in the District which has been established to facilitate the maintenance and improvement of health and well-being.
- 1002.2 The policies established in support of the human services delivery system objective are as follows:
- (a) Focus the full range of health and social services on major problems facing the District, such as infant mortality, the homeless, alcohol, drug abuse, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and the availability and cost containment of services;
 - (b) Increase accountability of government managed human service delivery systems, utilize computerized management information systems, and invest revenues received from federal funding in programs vital to human service delivery;
 - (c) Maintain and improve services for all children and adults in twenty-four hour (24 hr.) care facilities and ensure that victims of homelessness are cared for, especially when extreme weather conditions occur;
 - (d) Place clients of the health care system in settings most appropriate to their needs;
 - (e) Deinstitutionalize clients in institutions who require less restrictive levels of care, provide adequate follow-up to monitor their progress, and coordinate the development of alternative placements with public and private agencies;

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- (f) Administer child and family services to avoid removing children from their families, whenever possible, and promote the rehabilitation of families undergoing stress;
- (g) Support the development of adequate alcohol and drug abuse facilities directed toward prevention, control, and rehabilitation;
- (h) Coordinate existing services and policies and provide new services in health, housing, transportation, and recreation, including the establishment of multi-purpose senior centers in areas that have a large elderly population and the provision of transportation to and from the centers, to make it possible for the elderly to remain independent in their own homes;
- (i) Ensure that the staff of each child-care facility participates in on-going training to maintain high quality and professional standards of care;
- (j) Increase distribution of information on health and social services available to the elderly, disabled, destitute, and others who need human services;
- (k) Coordinate the design and implementation of all District human service programs with human service providers; and
- (l) Link District government human service programs more effectively with federally mandated and funded human service programs to obtain additional federal funding.

1003 HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT

- 1003.1 The health care cost containment objectives are to ensure high quality and thorough community-based health services that are available and accessible at reasonable cost and to provide quality public and private health services at reasonable cost.
- 1003.2 The policies established in support of the health care cost containment objectives are as follows:
 - (a) Improve the efficiency of health service and initiate all appropriate actions to contain the costs of health care, thereby providing quality services at the lowest possible cost;
 - (b) Support the development of appropriate alternatives to inpatient hospital care develop alternative uses for underutilized hospital beds, and avoid duplication of expensive services and equipment;
 - (c) Continue efforts to control increasing Medicaid costs;
 - (d) Establish an all-embracing health information system for the effective health planning; and

- (e) Maintain and improve strong health care planning processes which further the goals of quality and cost containment in health care.

1004 HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

1004.1 The health care delivery system objective is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the health care delivery system.

1004.2 The policies established in support of the health care delivery system objective are as follows:

- (a) Refocus the health care system from one of crisis response to one that emphasizes preventing disease and promoting health and well-being by enhancing client capabilities to make informed choices about life styles and health practices, by avoiding disease, disability, and stress, and by establishing local health policies directed at increasing individual responsibility for health;
- (b) Promote the accessibility of quality primary care services in all areas of the District at reasonable cost, especially in medically-underserved and critical staff shortage areas;
- (c) Increase management efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability in the supplementary nutrition programs for pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children in order to effect overall improvement in the quality and level of services provided;
- (d) Strive to decrease infant mortality in the District;
- (e) Promote the efficient and effective delivery of acute-care services by reducing inappropriate service utilization and by exploring alternative reimbursement mechanisms;
- (f) Increase the availability and accessibility of all chronic-care services with special emphasis on personal support services for the chronically ill and disabled; and
- (g) Seek to ensure that sufficient rehabilitation services are readily accessible at costs that will not inhibit patient access to care and seek to ensure that appropriate referral patterns for rehabilitation services are maintained.

1005 INCOME MAINTENANCE AND ECONOMIC SELF-SUPPORT SERVICES

1005.1 The income maintenance and economic self-support services objectives are to provide income maintenance and support services where needed to the maximum extent possible and to assist families and individuals to achieve or maintain economic self-support.

1005.2 The policies established in support of the income maintenance and economic self-support services objectives are as follows:

- (a) Develop a self-support and self-sufficiency task force to make recommendations and to devise a plan geared toward the improvement and enhancement of service delivery capabilities, in order to foster client self-sufficiency and to promote measures to assist recipients of income assistance in gaining skills necessary for full-time employment;
- (b) Provide an efficient management and delivery system of income maintenance with strong emphasis on timely and equitable processing of public assistance, Medicaid, and food stamp applications;
- (c) Prevent or reduce inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based, home-based, or other forms of less intensive care and provide institutional care when other forms of service are not appropriate;
- (d) Prevent or remedy neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and adults and preserve, rehabilitate, or reunite families, making every effort to maintain or place children in permanent residential settings;
- (e) Provide permanent residential settings, day-care services, and after-school programs and provide family and health counseling, nutrition services, and employment training with income assistance programs for indigent parents;
- (f) Provide rehabilitative services in the least restrictive appropriate settings for neglected and delinquent young people;
- (g) Promote health, environmental, and life-style conditions to strengthen the well-being of children and youth;
- (h) Promote conditions to enable handicapped persons to enjoy rich and full lives;
- (i) Promote programs of needed support, health, and special services for adults to enable them to maintain their sense of security, dignity, respect, and independence; and
- (j) Empower those who are most in need to gain greater accessibility to the services of the government, greater influence on the delivery of those services, and greater control over their personal lives and communities.

1099 DEFINITIONS

1099.1 The provisions of §199 of chapter 1 of this title and the definitions set forth in that section shall be incorporated by reference in this section.

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